

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 SS-20 NSC-10 DOTE-00

DRC-01 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 /105 W

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R 012300Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5593

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 4116

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, HO, GT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PAN AM SERVICE TO HONDURAS

REF: STATE 212307, TEGUCIGALPA 3964 AND 3990

1. DEPTTEL ASKS HAS PAN AM MOUNTED "CAMPAIGN" WITH A PREJUDICIOUS CONNOTATION AGAINST GUATEMALA IN HONDURAS. FINAL ANSWER NOT CLEAR, DEPENDING AS IT DOES ON INTENTIONS OF PAN AM. EMBASSY OPINION IS THAT PAN AM DESIRES TO CONTINUE SERVICE TO SAN PEDRO. ITS ACTION TO ADVISE INTERESTED PARTIES HAS BEEN NECESSARY AND PROPER AND LOW KEY. IT HAS NOT OPERATED A PRESS CAMPAIGN WITH PLANTED ARTICLES, INTERVIEWS OR ADS - NONE OF WHICH ARE EXPENSIVE IN HONDURAS. WHILE EMBASSY BELIEVES PAN AM HAS BEEN SLOW IN PROVIDING POLICY AND DOCUMENTS TO LOCAL REP WARREN AND TO GOH, WE DO NOT CONSIDER HIS ACTIONS AS KNOWN TO US AS A "CAMPAIGN" IN A PREJUDICIOUS SENSE.

2. BACKGROUND AS REPORTED REFTELS, PAN AM IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBASSY HAS STATED CAUSE OF REDUCED OR TERMINATED SERVICE TO SAN PEDRO DUE TO ECONOMIC FACTORS FOLLOWING DECISIONS OF GOG AFFECTING GUATEMALA-SAN PEDRO SEGMENT. PAN AM AT NO TIME INDICATED A DESIRE TO END SERVICE TO  
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SAN PEDRO, BUT DID EXPRESS DOUBTS THE CITY COULD BE SERVED

OTHER THAN BY FLIGHTS CONNECTING TO GUATEMALA. THIS CONDITION OF REDUCED OR TERMINATION OF SERVICE WAS NOTIFIED BY PAN AM TO INTERESTES IN SAN PEDRO IN ONE MEETING WITH 10 PERSONS (CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND ASSOCIATION OF CATTLEMEN) AND DIRECTLY AND THROUGH INTERESTED GROUPS (INCLUDING SAN PEDRO PAN AM EMPLOYEES) TO THE GOH.

3. THE FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT OF A GOH OFFICIAL WAS THAT OF JACOBO GOLDSTEIN, DIRECTOR OF TOURISM, PUBLISHED OCT 16 IN TIEMPO. HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING, "THE MEASURE ADOPTED BY THE GOG IS REGARD TO PAN AM IS SOMETHING RATHER DELICATE. WE HAVE EVERY INTEREST THAT THE COMPANY CONTINUE FLYING TO HONDURAS, BUT WE DO NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO RESOLVE IT OURSELVES."

4. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE PUBLISHED OCT 24 IN PRENSA, MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, ING. MIGUEL ANGEL RIVERA, TOOK A POSITION EXPANDING BUT ESSENTIALLY REFLECTING THE GOLDSTEIN INTERVIEW AND THE PRESENTATION MADE TO THE MINISTER BY PAN AM, I.E., THAT THE GOG ACTION WAS WITHIN ITS RIGHTS BUT WAS PREJUDICIAL TO HONDURAN BUSINESS AND TOURISTS INTERESTS. HE SAID "FRIENDLY" APPROACH SHOULD BE MADE BY GOH TO GOG.

5. ON OCT 31 THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, MANUEL E. LEIVA, WAS QUOTED IN LA PRENSA MOUTHING THE SAME WORDS OF ATTACK AGAINST PAN AM WHICH WERE MADE BY THE GUATEMALAN MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS IN THEIR PRESS OCT 26, I.E., PAN AM WAS CONDUCTING IN HONDURAS A CAMPAIGN OF BALCKMAIL AND DEFAMATION AGAINST THE GOG. HOWEVER, PRENSA HAD APPARENTLY PICKED UP A NEWS ITEM THAT DATED OCT 27 IN THE GUATEMALAN PRESS, RECORDED WHEN LIEVA WAS DEPARTING GUATEMALA CITY AFTER CONSULTATIONS THERE. LEIVA STATED PAN AM DID NOT WISH TO SERVE SAN PEDRO AND WAS USING THE GOG ACTION AS AN EXCUSE. LIEVA, A FORMER SAHSA OFFICIAL MAY BE ANTI-PAN AM OR DUPED BY THE GUATEMALANS. WHEN IN GUATEMALA HE WAS SHOWN THE GUATEMALAN APPROVAL OF POST-OCT 28 SCHEDULES WHICH DID NOT INCLUDE SAN PEDRO, RATHER THAN PAN AM'S APPLICATION WHICH DID INCLUDE SAN PEDRO.  
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6. BY LETTER DATED OCT 27, THE HONDURAN DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION NOTIFIED PAN AM IN RESPONSE TO ITS REQUEST THAT IT COULD SUSPEND SERVICE TO SAN PEDRO FROM OCT 28 TO NOV 8. HOWEVER, THE NOTIFICATION CONVEYED DIRECT AND STRONG REQUIREMENT THAT PAN AM PRESENT PROOFS THAT THE GOG HAD PROHIBITED OPERATIONS ON THE GUATEMALA/SAN PEDRO SEGMENT. FURTHER, AT THE END OF THE PERIOD IF PAN AM HAS NOT

PRESENTED PROOF THAT IT HAS BEEN OBLIGATED TO SUSPEND ITS FLIGHTS BETWEEN GUATEMALA AND SAN PEDRO AND VICE-VERSA, AND ALSO THAT IT HAS BEEN OBLIGATED TO SUSPEND ALL FLIGHTS TO SAN PEDRO, THE DIRECCION GENERAL DE AERONAUTICA CIVIL WILL TAKE THE STEPS IT CONSIDERS NECESSARY. THIS AGGRESSIVE POSITION PROBABLY RESULTED FROM LEIVA'S VISIT TO GUATEMALA AND THE FACT THAT WARREN, THE PAN AM LOCAL REP DID NOT HAVE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FROM HIS COMPANY UNTIL THE WEEK OF OCT 26.

7. WARREN, NOW FACED WITH AN APPARENT DIFFERENCE IN ATTITUDE BETWEEN THE TRANS. MINISTER AND THE CIVAIR DIRECTOR, HAS DECIDED TO PRESENT HIS NEWLY OBTAINED DOCUMENTARY INFORMATION ONLY TO THE MINISTER (APPOINTMENT NOV 2).  
SANCHEZ

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